

Their valiant, collective efforts put Selma on the map in a way that no one could have imagined, so much so that we still celebrate and commemorate those efforts today.

The movement continues, because it must—because the fight for equity is as important now as it was in 1965. Selma is still now.

Old Battles have become new again. Since the Supreme Court in *Shelby County vs. Holder* gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in 2013, state legislatures all across the nation have passed restrictive voter laws making it harder for people to vote, especially for Black Americans and other minority voters.

Today, driven by the Big Lie of a “stolen election,” opponents to our democracy have ramped up their efforts to restrict access to the ballot box.

Just this year, lawmakers have introduced at least 389 bills in 48 states that would restrict the right to vote. And in 17 states, these anti-voter bills have already been signed into law. These laws are intended to allow politicians to pick and choose whose voices are heard by subjecting voters to:

- longer lines,
- inaccessible polling places,
- strict voter ID requirements,
- broken voting machines,
- purges of voter rolls,
- and voter registration complications.

These new tactics may not require us to count how many jellybeans are in a jar or recite the names of every county in Alabama, they are the same old tricks in disguise. Indeed, voter suppression is still alive and well.

As if these bills weren't enough, earlier this month, the Supreme Court upheld Arizona's discriminatory, anti-voter laws that were designed to target Latino and other minority voters. Specifically, the Court found that Arizona's out-of-precinct policy, which requires ballots to be thrown out if they were not cast in the assigned precinct, and its third-party ballot collection policy, which limits who can collect vote-by-mail ballots, were not discriminatory and did not violate section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Simply put, the Court got it wrong.

Arizona's out-of-precinct and third-party collection ballot policies created unfair burdens and disproportionately impacted minority voters and, as a result, Arizona's election system was not equally open to all Arizona voters, particularly for Native American, Hispanic, and Black voters. Unfortunately, with this ruling the Court chose not to protect the precious right to vote and instead weakened a different provision of the Voting Rights Act, section 2, and made it harder for victims of voter discrimination to seek justice.

Let me be clear: Today we face a critical juncture. We are up against the most coordinated state-level effort to restrict the right to vote in generations and a Supreme Court keen on destroying our nation's most important voting rights law.

Luckily, we have a solution.

Democrats in Congress are committed to passing federal legislation to restore and protect the sacred right to vote for generations to come, and I'm so proud to be leading that fight.

My bill, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act, or H.R. 4, would restore and modernize key provisions of the Voting Rights Act that were gutted by the Supreme Court. It would once again prohibit any state or jurisdiction with a history of discrimination from implementing

any election changes without receiving preclearance from U.S. Department of Justice.

The need for Congress to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act has never been so urgent. Without federal protections against discrimination, states across the country have and will continue to enact new voter suppression tactics that subject voters to: longer lines; inaccessible polling places; strict voter ID requirements; broken voting machines; and more.

That's why I'm hard at work drafting this legislation with the House Judiciary Committee and stakeholder groups. We are on track to have the bill ready for introduction in the coming weeks.

Never did I think the cause for which John Lewis marched for 56 years ago—the Voting Rights Act would require congressional action to restore its full protection.

It reminds us that progress is elusive and every generation must fight and fight again.

The legacy of my district requires that I pick up this baton of voter equality and continue the next leg—their Cause is my Cause too.

I look forward to introducing H.R. 4, The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act, because the reality is—we have not yet achieved the America that John dreamed of.

John knew that our Country's best days lie ahead of us, but we must seize the opportunities to enact change every day.

He understood that democracy is not the whim or edict of one person; it is a constant, collective act of reinvention. We are a nation founded on a call to action—to strive daily for a more perfect union.

Every one of us has a role to play. As leaders we must lead and as citizens we must Vote.

May we all recommit ourselves to the ideals of equality and justice for which the foot soldiers marched. Let our words and actions stir the soul of our Nation.

John gave us his final Call to Action: John said, “Never give up, Never give in, Keeping the faith, Keep your eyes on the prize.”

Let's get into Good Trouble.

IN HONOR OF DEAN CHRISTON

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dean Christon on the occasion of his retirement as Director and Chief Executive Officer of New Hampshire Housing.

Dean is as steadfast advocate for affordable housing and community development across New Hampshire. It was an honor to work alongside Dean, his team at New Hampshire Housing and countless other developers and advocates to see so many impactful projects come together, like Boulder Point Veterans Housing in Plymouth and the Pine Tree Lane Apartments in West Lebanon.

I commend Dean Christon on his retirement after more than three decades with New Hampshire Housing and on his unwavering dedication to the Granite State. Dean also serves as the Vice Chair of the Advisory Board of the Saint Anselm College Center for Ethics in Society and is a trustee of NeighborWorks Southern NH, a testament to

his commitment to housing security and to the future leaders of our state.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Dean for his many years of service, and for being a part of what makes the Granite State so great. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Dean on his retirement and wish him the best of luck in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the 31st Anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The law prohibits discrimination by private and public institutions toward citizens with disabilities, mandating that any entity covered by the law take reasonable steps to make their property, lines of communication, and employment accessible to persons with disabilities. In the two decades since the law's passage, it has opened the door for million Americans to participate more fully in day-to-day activities and to pursue opportunities in society. One out of every five American households has a family member who has a physical or cognitive disability. This historic bill expanded access to physical buildings and countless activities, easing the ability of these citizens to go about their daily lives freely without concern that they will be denied access to a school, shopping center, business, or communication device. Access is a freedom that everyone should enjoy, and I am proud to celebrate two decades of a law designed to promote this freedom for so many. I am proud that many of the accommodations that resulted from this law are considered commonplace now.

My Congressional District has long supported the efforts to promote equal civil rights. Chicago has been a leader in the movement to improve the livelihood of Americans with disabilities.

The Affordable Care Act included legislative provisions from my bill H.R. 1670, the Community First Choice Option, which allows states to include within their Medicaid State Plans an option to receive community-based services for individuals with disabilities who are eligible for nursing homes and other institutional settings. The Community First Choice Option gives people the choice to leave facilities and institutions for their own homes and communities with appropriate, cost effective services and supports. We should build on the precedent set 3 decades ago with the enactment of the ADA by giving Americans with disabilities the freedom to choose where they live.

Equality is a founding principle of our country. It has been an arduous process for many groups of people—from the Emancipation Proclamation to the Nineteenth Amendment for women's suffrage to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was another milestone in equality for our Nation. Thousands of individuals worked in earnest to make this law possible, and thousands continue to champion this law's implementation. For these efforts, we honor the